



It's Spring!!!
...despite the snow!

Serving Residents of the Butternut Valley Since 1938

The ROTARY CLUB of MORRIS, NY

Chartered February, 1938 Charter #4887
Jeffrey Conroe, President Lana Rouff, Governor
District 7170



2008-2009 Rotary Theme

Volume 70

April 13, 2009

Number 39

Meetings every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Town House, Morris, NY

Last Meeting – April 6, 2009

The regular weekly meeting at the Morris Town House was called to order by President **Jeffrey Conroe**. Our traditional Easter ham dinner for 22 Rotarians and guests was prepared by **Juanita Brown** and Vicky Pegg. In the Two of Clubs drawing, **Gerry Bourgeois** drew the King of Spades. **Hank Rehrmann**, in his first meeting since returning from Florida, spoke on some of the experiences he had visiting clubs in the Sunshine State. **Mike D'Amico** will give next week's Rotary Moment.

Guests — **Van Robinson** (Edmeston) was the only visiting Rotarian. Freddie Schwarzahns attended with his parents.

Make-Ups — More make-up cards arrived from Florida. **Jim Pasternak** sent two from the Zephyrhills Noon club while we received one from Temple Terrace for **Hank Rehrmann**.

Announcements — **Mike Virgil** reported that all five (5) candidates will be sent to RYLA at Hartwick College in June. He identified those selected as Emma Stebbins and Calli Hill of Gilbertsville-Mount Upton with Alyssa Hite, Melissa Galbreth, and Carly Skinner to represent Morris Central School. --- **Bill Burdick** gave a rave review of last weekend's Rotary Leadership Institute. He attended the session at the Madison BOCES in Verona. He was in a group of 11 people, most from the Syracuse-Utica area (District 7150). He noted that all clubs, both large and small, seem to face common problems. --- The price has been set for the Pride of Workmanship dinner. The event at the Stella Luna Restaurant in Oneonta will be held on Monday, June 1. Spouses and guests are welcome. --- The club will host a club assembly and directors' meeting next week.

Birthdays & Anniversaries — None.

Active Members

Bosco, Sharon *
Bourgeois, Gerard *
Breuninger, Mary *
Brown, Juanita *
Burdick, William
Conroe, Jeffrey +
D'Amico, Michael +
DeLaurentiis, Teresa
Frankel, George +
Fusco, Nancy *
Graves, Harry *
Hay, Ronald *
Johnson, Fred *
Johnson, Gary *
Keene, Richard *
Kranbuhl, Maureen
Lander, Robert +
Marlier, Felice *
Matteson, John *
Meyers, Matthew
Miller, Joan
Miller, Roger *
Miller-Ballard, Lois *
Panek, Nicole
Pasternak, James *
Pegg, Patrick
Phillips, CarrieLynn +
Pickens, William *
Rehrmann, Henry *
Schwarzahns, Fred
Schwarzahns, Marg
Tiffany, Norman *
Townsend, Neil *
Virgil, Michael *
Webster, Royce *

YEP Students

DeForest, Chelsea
From G-MU to India
Endo, Thais Sayuri
From Brazil to MCS
Meyers, Kaitlin
From MCS to Belgium

Honoraries

Danielson, Walter *
Halbert, Ronald *
Norton, Bruce *
Sorensen, Herbert
Stowell, William *
Walicka, Terry *

* Paul Harris Fellows
+ Sustaining Members

Send Newsletter Items To
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Program — Rotarians and guests sat in rapt attention as Norwich attorney James Cushman reviewed the various "chapters" of the current bankruptcy laws in the United States. Cushman is one of the few lawyers in the area who specializes in bankruptcy work; he was recommended to MRC by local attorney Timothy Johnson. Jim's expertise is well-known with most of his cases coming from referrals.

Cushman said there was a flurry of cases before legislators changed the bankruptcy law in October, 2005. Now, with a declining economy, the number of cases has picked up again. Serious illness or loss of job frequently cause individuals to seek protection when their expenses exceed income. Depending on an individual's situation, certain essentials (like the filer's home) can be protected from creditors. Cushman listed the three types of creditors as 1) secured creditors, 2) taxing authorities, and 3) unsecured creditors. Several Rotarians recounted personal experiences of being unsecured creditors when filings occurred.

The vast majority of cases are filed under the three main chapters of the US Bankruptcy Code which are Chapter 7 (liquidation), Chapter 11 (reorganizations, usually corporations), and Chapter 13 (individual debt adjustment). Other chapters, specifically 8-10 which deal with railroads, municipalities, etc., are seldom mentioned these days. Recently, Cushman has been writing a number of petitions under Chapter 12, a special section of the law dealing with family farms. Under this plan, farmers are given 5 years of supervised help to eliminate their debt.

Cushman, whose family roots go back to rural Plymouth, practices law in Norwich. He can be reached at cushmanlaw@gmail.com.

Next In Rotary Service: Monday — You & A Potato Peeler. Tuesday — You & Two Pies.

Happiness — **Gerry Bourgeois** went golfing last week-end with Dick Keene and Bob Lull. They couldn't take a cart on the course so all three successfully walked nine holes. --- **Jeff Conroe's** son Luke graduates in May. He's considering a job in Hagerstown, MD. --- **John Matteson:** happy. --- **Matthew Meyers** enjoyed spending time with his brother and sister-in-law from Arizona, their first visit back "home" in the Butternut Valley in a year. --- **Lois Miller-Ballard** says the recently-promoted polio eradication documentary on TV was worth watching. --- **Hank Rehrmann** is glad to be home in the "sunny Butternut Valley". --- **Van**

Robinson: Happy. --- **Fred Schwarzhans** praised RYLA. --- **Margaret Schwarzhans** spent a wonderful weekend in New York City with daughters Mary and Hannah. They spent time with one of Margaret's host sisters from her exchange year 30 years ago. --- **Mike Virgil:** Happy. --- **Royce Webster:** Happy

YEP Report — Chairwoman **Margaret Schwarzhans** has been in contact with the Area Representative in Belgium. She was assured that the inbound students now touring Italy, including Kate Meyers, are not traveling in the area of the recent earthquake activity. All students are safe.

Community Service — **Mike D'Amico** has issued a call for volunteers to support the Cub Scout Trout Derby to offer a fishing experience for area youngsters. He sent an e-mail with more details.

Registration to begin at 8 AM with the Derby underway at 9 AM. This will be a joint venture with the Boy Scouts. I have sent out numerous letters to businesses for donations but if anyone has any other ideas please let me know. We need to raise a lot of money just to purchase the fish. Then there are the prizes, food, etc. We have had some donations but we still have a long way to go. We will also need support and volunteers for the day of the Derby.

The Trout Derby will be held on Saturday, May 2 from 8 AM to noon on a stream section along Dimmock Hollow Road in the town of Morris. Bait will be provided. Participants must bring their own poles, tackle, bucket, etc. The Derby is open to kids ages 12 and under. The entry fee will \$5 per child. Prizes will be awarded. There will be a food tent where refreshments can be purchased.

Clarification — Most of us refer to the location of the scout's upcoming Trout Derby as Dimmock Hollow Creek because it runs along Dimmock Hollow road. Thanks to **Gerry Bourgeois** for researching the correct name. The trout will be stocked in Morris Brook which eventually empties into Butternut Creek.

District 7170 — If you have an old bookmark to the District 7170 website, you might want to update your address. For months, you were automatically re-directed to the new web address. That featured has stopped working. Update your bookmark to www.rotarydistrict7170.org.

This Week – April 13, 2009

Club Assembly followed by a Board of Directors' meeting.

Next Week – April 20, 2009

Work Night - After Juanita's dinner, we will move the Morris United Methodist Church to prepare for the scout dinner. Bring your potato peeler.

Next Project – April 21, 2009

The Morris Rotary Club will hold its annual chicken and biscuit dinner at the Morris United Methodist Church. All of the funds support Morris boy and girl scout programs, including the Cub Scouts. The manpower needs are critical. And remember, each Rotarian is responsible for two pies for dessert. Take-outs start at 4:30 PM.

Rotary Planning Calendar

April 13, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
No Speaker – Club Assembly & Directors' Meeting

April 20, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
No Speaker – Prepare for the Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

April 21, 2009 — Special Fund-raising Event
Chicken & Biscuit Dinner to Benefit Scout Activities

April 27, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
Speaker – Cobleskill Rotarian **Mike Vandow**
Topic – Schoharie-Otsego Film Commission

May 2-3, 2009 — Rotary District 7170 Conference
Binghamton Regency Conference Center

May 4, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
Speaker – Regional Postal Manager Barry Moore
Topic – Changes in the US Postal Service

May 11, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
No Speaker – Club Assembly & Directors' Meeting

May 15, 2009 — Special Fund-raising Event
Morris Rotary Auction at Otsego County Fairgrounds

May 18, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
Speaker – Brazilian Student Thais Sayuri Endo
Topic – YEP Presentation

May 25, 2009 — No Meeting
Memorial Day Federal Holiday

May 30, 2009 — Special Fund-raising Event
Shoot Straight For Service Golf Tournament

June 1, 2009 — Special Vocational Service Event
Pride Of Workmanship Dinner at Stella Luna Restaurant

June 8, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
Speaker – TBD
Topic – TBD

June 15, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
Club Assembly & Directors' Meeting

June 22, 2009 — Regular Morris Rotary Meeting
Speaker – President-elect Gary Johnson
Topic – Mapping The 2009-2010 Rotary Year

June 29, 2009 — Special End-of-Year Rotary Meeting
Pass-The-Gavel Picnic